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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date:

Date: July 13, 2004 Name: Tadashi Horie Reg. No. 40,437 Signature: *Tadashi Horie*

BRINKS
HOFER
GILSON
& LIONE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Toshio MIKIYA
Koji MATSUMOTO

Appln. No.: 10/808,067

Filed: March 24, 2004

For: PIPE COUPLER

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Art Unit: 3679

Attorney Docket No: 10210/10

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

Attached is/are:

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (in dup), Form PTO-1449, 1 Cited Reference (A2)
☒ Return Receipt Postcard

Fee calculation:

- ☒ No additional fee is required.
☐ Small Entity.
☐ An extension fee in an amount of \$ _____ for a _____-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).
☐ A petition or processing fee in an amount of \$ _____ under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(____).
☐ An additional filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

					Small Entity			Not a Small Entity	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate	Add'l Fee	or	Rate	Add'l Fee
Total		Minus			x \$9=			x \$18=	
Indep.		Minus			x 43=			x \$86=	
First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim					+\$145=			+\$290=	
					Total	\$		Total	\$

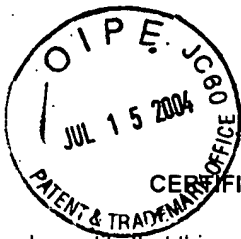
Fee payment:

- ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above-identified fee(s) is enclosed.
☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 23-1925 in the amount of \$ _____. A copy of this Transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.
☐ Payment by credit card in the amount of \$ _____ (Form PTO-2038 is attached).
☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this paper (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Respectfully submitted,

July 13, 2004
Date

Tadashi Horie
Tadashi Horie (Reg. No. 40,437)



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July 13, 2004

Date of Deposit

Tadashi Horie Reg. No. 40,437

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

July 13, 2004

Date of Signature

Our Case No.: **10210/10**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Toshio MIKIYA
Koji MATSUMOTO

Serial No.: 10/808,067

Filing Date: March 24, 2004

For: PIPE COUPLER

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit No.: 3679

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Pursuant to the waiver to Rule 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S.

issued and published applications in Information Disclosure Statements for patent applications filed after June 30, 2003, Applicants are not enclosing copies of reference A1. However, Applicants are enclosing copies of foreign reference A2.

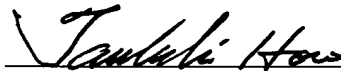
Prior art reference A2 is in Japanese. Applicants are submitting an English abstract of the reference.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadashi Horie", is written over a horizontal line.

Tadashi Horie
Registration No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200

FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/808,067	CASE NO. 10210/10
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	FILING DATE March 24, 2004	GROUP ART UNIT 3679
(use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT(S): Toshio MIKIYA et al.

REFERENCE DESIGNATION

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	5,095,947	03/17/1992	Weh et al.		
	A					
	A					
	A					
	A					
	A					
	A					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
	A2	2001-41381 A	02/13/2001	Japan		Abstract
	A					
	A					
	A					
	A					

EXAMINER
INITIAL

OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

(Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

	A	
	A	
	A	
	A	
	A	
	A	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.